MMR_0048 Joseph J. Nichols

Achievement Program's MMR No. 48

Dr. Joseph J. Nichols

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Joe Nichols is 44 years of age and lives in Atlanta with his wife, Gene, three sons (Joe Jr. 15, Mark 13, Walter 11) and a daughter (Linda Elaine 4). Joe is a surgeon in private practice. He has been very active in NMRA affairs and is presently Contest Chairman for SER.

Joe's layout, "The Delta Southern," was one of those on display during the Atlanta Convention. It is in HO scale and features code 70 n.s. on home-cut crossties with home-made spikes made from paper staples. All turnouts are scratch-built (102 completed so far). There is a central dispatcher controlled CTC panel with nine cabs, and a scratch-built roundhouse with twelve stalls.

The main line is about 400 feet loop-to-loop. By flipping one switch (16-pole, 2-position) the entire main line can be converted to automatic running. The lay-out is fully scenicked—cast plaster over screen with dry pigment color.

Joe says, "I run steam locos with center-flow hoppers and roller bearing trucks with arch bars in the same train. A purist would cringe, but if I like it, I run it."

Joe has been in HO since he was twelve years of age. He didn't do much until after the war when he got an HO Varney Dockside with a six-volt motor. Now he has about 30 locomotives in-cluding many kit-built and two scratch-built. His best passenger train is an 8-car scratch-built Daylight train with full interior detail.

Joe Jr. is following in his faher's footsteps and has his own layout built, wired and scenicked by himself.